

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant supplemental reply, claims 1-11 and 12-20 will continue to remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

Enclosed 37 CFR § 1.132 Declaration

Enclosed with the instant supplemental reply is a 37 CFR § 1.132 Declaration of Mr. Zembei Meiwa, one of the instant inventors. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider Mr. Meiwa's enclosed declaration, as it contains comparative test results that are submitted to be material to a consideration of the patentability of the instant invention as claimed.

In the enclosed declaration, Mr. Meiwa reports on additional tests, procedures and results, which are described therein.

Specifically, in the enclosed declaration, it is reported that six (6) comparative polymer emulsions (Comparative Examples 11-16) were prepared and were tested for physical properties and then paper making in the same way as described in the instant specification. The physical properties of the comparative polymer emulsions and paper making results obtained with the comparative polymer emulsions (i.e., Comparative Examples 11-16) are reported in Table 4 of Mr. Meiwa's declaration.

As can be seen upon a full review of Table 4 of Mr. Meiwa's declaration, each of Comparative Examples 11 to 16 failed to produce a paper sheet having an improvement in both stiffness ratio and bulk ratio.

Incorporation by Reference of Earlier Remarks

In reply to each of outstanding rejections of record, applicants incorporate herein by reference remarks set forth in the earlier reply of September 18, 2006 at pages 8-17 thereof.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 102 & § 103

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Honig et al. US '766** (U.S. Patent 5,167,766).

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 have been also rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 120(a) as being anticipated by **Chen et al. US '540** (U.S. Patent 2006/0066540).

Claim 9 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Honig et al. US '766** or **Chen et al. US '540**.

Each of the above rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdraw of the same is respectfully requested based on the following considerations. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw each of the above rejections in view of remarks and amendments previously submitted on September 18, 2006 and the enclosed 37 CFR § 1.132 declaration of Mr. Zenbei Meiwa and particularly Comparative Examples 11-16 therein and the test results reported in Table 4 of the declaration.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly in view of the above amendments and remarks reconsideration of the objections and rejection and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. John W. Bailey (Registry No. 32,881), at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

John W. Bailey
Registration No.: 32,881
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Enclosure: 37 CFR § 1.132 Declaration of Mr. Zenbei MEIWA